



TOWN OF

K E N S I N G T O N

JUNE 2002
JOURNAL

Election Results

Mayor

Lynn Raufaste, 332
Andrea H. Gill, 257

Council

Al Carr, 530
Leanne Pfautz, 501

589 ballots cast including 39 absentee ballots

7th Annual Children's Bike Parade

Thursday, July 4th at 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul Park
Call (301) 942-0631 for more information

Meeting Schedule

July 1, 7:00 p.m. Work Session
August 12, 7:00 p.m. Work Session

Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon
at the Kensington Train Station

Contact us at 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895
Phone: 301-949-2424; Fax: 301-949-4925;
E-mail: mayor.council@tok.org; Web Site: www.tok.org

July 1st, 7:00 p.m. Work Session Agenda

Organizational Meeting/Swearing in of Council

The Traffic Group, a Maryland based traffic engineering firm will discuss traffic calming and traffic planning.

At the suggestion of several Town residents, beginning with this work session we will return to the old Town tradition of serving refreshments at Town meetings. During the summer when only work sessions are held, refreshments will be available at the work sessions starting at 6:30, with the work session beginning at 7. Once Town meetings begin again in the fall, refreshments will be available just at Town meetings, with refreshments at 7 and the meeting at its usual 7:30 time. So, come a little early to the meeting and share a cookie with your neighbor. Anyone interested in baking, please contact Jenny Smith at 301-946-3804.

Reminder

The Town Office will be closed on Thursday, July 4th

Spirit of Kensington Award

Congratulations to Tracey Furman and Juanell Glotzbach who each received the Spirit of Kensington Award for 2002. Congratulations to all of the other nominees, Judy Hanks-Henn, Ethel and Walter Koehler, Barry Peoples, and Jenny Smith.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Max S. Lesko who was one of two winners of a \$1,500 scholarship awarded by the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League.

Congratulations to Council Member Chris Bruch who received a Certificate of Appreciation for his twelve years of service.

Congratulations to Jaime Simms who received a Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding service as supervisor of the public works crew during the absence of the public works director.

e-Announcements

If you would like to receive brief e-mail updates regarding Town business please sign up for e-Announcements on the home page of the Town's web site (www.tok.org)

Town Building Permits Required

A reminder that when you build an addition to your home or business, add a shed, install a fence, or perform any other work that requires a County building permit, you also need a Town permit. Questions? Call the Town office.

PAVING/CURB AND GUTTER SCHEDULE

The following streets are scheduled to be paved. Paving should take place sometime in August. Residents will be notified of exact dates. Thank you for your continued support and patience.

Fawcett Street from Howard Avenue to Baltimore Street
Kensington Parkway from Howard Avenue to Littledale
Kensington Court
Washington Street from Kensington Parkway to Prospect Street
Perry Avenue from St. Paul to Lexington Street
Kent Street from Frederick Avenue to Kensington Parkway
Farragut Avenue from Lexington Street to Connecticut Avenue
Calvert Place from Kensington Parkway to Washington Street
Calvert Place from Washington Street to Connecticut Avenue
1800 square yards on Lexington heading south from University Blvd.

The following locations are scheduled for curb and gutter replacement which will begin by the end of June. The residents living on these streets will be notified of the exact start date. Again let me thank you for your patience and support.

Washington Street from Prospect to Connecticut Avenue
Kent Street from Frederick Avenue to Kensington Parkway
South side of Knowles Avenue between Armory Avenue and Connecticut Avenue
Lexington Street 200 feet south of University Blvd.

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in serving on the Tree Lighting Committee or need more information about the Committee contact Tracey Furman at (301) 933-6282.

If you are interested in serving on the Revitalization Steering Committee contact the Mayor for more information.

Volunteers are needed for the Town Picnic at Kensington Cabin Park in August. Please contact the Town office if you are interested in helping with this fun event.

The Town is in search of a few arts and crafts fans to organize the 2nd Annual Kensington Arts and Crafts Fair. This year's Fair will again be held on Labor Day in connection with the Town's Labor Day Parade and Festival. Help is needed especially with publicity, logistics, set up and clean up. If you are interested in helping, please call Jenny Smith at 301-946-3804.

The Kensington Labor Day Parade organizers are in search of entertaining and fun musical groups who might be interested in performing in this year's parade. If you are in such a group or you know someone who is, please call Jenny Smith at 301-946-3804.

Thank You

Thank you Linda Fetig for volunteering to maintain the kiosk.

Building Permits

Remodel garage at 10405 Fawcett Street
Renovation of interior at 10550 Connecticut Avenue
Sign at 10550 Connecticut Avenue
Deck at 10310 Fawcett Street

Message from the Mayor's Desk

This month I met with several County Council Members to discuss a few issues important to the Town. One issue high on our list of priorities is turning our storm drain system over to the County. Kensington and Garrett Park are the only two small towns in Montgomery County that did not make this transfer in the 1960s. We will be working with Montgomery County Director of Public Works, Mr. Al Genetti to find the best way for the County and Town to accomplish this request.

The Founders' Day celebration was a great success. We thank all who helped and all who attended each event throughout the day. Senator Chris Van Hollen, Sharon Grosfeld, Doug Duncan were among the invited guests. We culminated with a picnic in Flinn Park. Thanks to Chris Bruch and Chris Tucker who cooked hot dogs throughout the afternoon. A special thank you to Anne Elsbree who donated the landscape design in front of the war memorial, we greatly appreciated her time and talent.

I take this opportunity to thank all of our residents for the great turn out on election night. I hope that the interest shown will continue and that many of you will start to attend Town meetings on a regular basis.

If you want to know what our Town meetings are all about please join us. We hope that you will not only come for the larger issues, but also stay for the nuts and bolts where you really learn how your municipal government works.

Council Member Bruch's Report

I'm pleased to report that the State Highway Administration has tentatively agreed to our request to lower the speed limit on Connecticut Ave. and University Blvd. north of the split (in the northern commercial area) from 40MPH to 30MPH. Speed limit signs should be changed later this summer.

Also, I am pleased to report that the County responded to our sidewalk request by installing one on the south side of Plyers Mill Road east of Summit Avenue. Now the Summit and Connecticut Avenue sidewalks are connected.

I prepared a “draft” guideline for driveway aprons and sidewalks that cross driveways for the Historic and Non-Historic District areas of the Town. This draft will be discussed at the June Work Session.

Over the past four years it has been a privilege to serve you. I’ve had the opportunity to meet hundreds of Town residents, volunteers, and small business owners. It’s the people that make Kensington a great Town, neighborhood, and community. While it may be rare to find total agreement on any issue in Kensington, it is very clear to me that we all do agree that our Town is a special place. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity.

Council Member Cowan’s Report

Kensington’s voters turned out in record numbers yesterday. This expression of interest was, in large measure, due to the active and well organized campaigns on behalf of both candidates. Kensington has never looked better than it did at the polls last night.

I hope this election reminds all of us that Kensington is, at its core, a community more than it is a municipal government. This election was likely decided on porches, in back yards, while shopping and on the sidewalks. Despite some heated discussions, passions will cool quickly and we will get on about our lives as friends and neighbors.

Hopefully these active campaigns will result in greater civic participation and a host of new ideas for making Kensington an even better town. It is intriguing that there was no voiced objection that one-half of the governing body was standing without opposition. It would be a very positive outcome if the actions of the Mayor and Council now engendered more interest and are not forgotten for another two years.

It’s certainly good to pay attention during elections but we would all be better served if the energy expended in the past three weeks evidenced itself on a more regular basis. In the past year we have had only one meeting that attracted more than a score of citizens – and that – the Safeway presentation discussed a proposal over which the Town has virtually no regulatory power. On a regular basis, we get practically no attendance at our meetings or work sessions.

It is possible to keep current by reading the Town Journal, checking the website, or talking to folks but to get a real feel for how things get done there is no substitute for being actively engaged as the process unfolds. As anyone who attends our meetings will tell you, being there makes you part of the process. Attendees at council meetings have real influence – their views are welcome and often acted on. I look forward to working with the Mayor and the rest of the Council in the coming year but even more I hope to be actively engaged by many more of Kensington’s citizens.

Council Member Pfautz's Report

The Charter Review Committee (Marlene Cohn, Al Carr and I) met with Cindy Conant and Andie Murtha on May 2, 2002 to discuss their proposed Charter amendment to allow legal aliens to vote in Town elections.

Currently, Article VII (Registration, Nominations and Elections), Section 701 (Qualifications of Voters) of the Town Charter, says "

"Every person who (a) is a citizen of the United States, (b) is at least eighteen (18) years of age, (c) has resided within the corporate limits of the Town for thirty (30) days, and (d) is registered in accordance with the provisions of this Charter, shall be a qualified voter of the Town."

We have a number of very active residents in Town who have not been able to vote in Town elections because they are not U.S. citizens. These residents are certainly affected by decisions of the Council and Mayor and the Committee agrees with Ms. Conant and Ms. Murtha that they should have the right to vote in Town elections. The Charter Review Committee therefore recommends that the Town Charter be amended as follows:

"Every person who (a) is a citizen of the United States OR AN ALIEN LEGALLY AUTHORIZED TO RESIDE IN THE UNITED STATES, (b) is at least eighteen (18) years of age, (c) has resided within the corporate limits of the Town for thirty (30) days, and (d) is registered in accordance with the provisions of this Charter, shall be a qualified voter of the Town."

Council Member Scharman's Report

I attended a meeting held by County Executive Duncan and County emergency response officials concerning Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security. This meeting was sponsored by the Montgomery Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League to discuss the County's readiness for potential natural disasters and terrorist attacks and coordination planning with municipal officials.

I had discussions with the Mayor, Councilmember Bruch, and Public Works Director Joel about the planned renovations for St. Paul Park.

I met with Mark Joel to discuss playground inspections of the equipment at Reinhardt and St. Paul parks. Follow-up inspections of equipment at both parks have been completed.

Town Meeting

May 28, 2002

Arthur Holmes, Chairman of the M-NCPPC Planning Board, gave a presentation on commercial redevelopment procedures concerning the Safeway project and answered questions from residents.

A public hearing was held on the FY 02/03 budget.

Mayor Raufaste called the Meeting to order at 9:40 p.m. with Council Members Bruch, Cowan, Pfautz, Scharman, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Mayor thanked everyone who worked and contributed to the Founders' Day Celebration.

Council Member Bruch informed residents that SHA has tentatively agreed that the 30MPH speed zone be extended along University Boulevard and Connecticut Avenue north to Decatur Avenue in response to his request.

The Mayor informed residents that only work sessions will be held during the summer months of June, July and August; however, time will be set aside for residents to share information and ask questions during the work sessions. Summer meetings will be held on June 4, July 1, and August 12 at 7:00 p.m.

The Mayor thanked Council Member Bruch for his dedicated service to the Town.

The Mayor and Council did not present monthly reports but will submit them in writing for the Journal.

Council Actions

Council Member Pfautz moved to approve fiscal year 2002-2003 year budget which includes a real property tax rate of .193 per \$100 of assessed value. It was seconded by Council Member Cowan and passed unanimously with the Mayor concurring.

Council Member Bruch moved to approve the minutes of the April 29 Town Meeting and the May 6, 2002 Work Session as circulated. It was seconded by Council Member Cowan and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Work Session of Mayor & Council

June 4, 2002

The work session commenced at 7:05 p.m., Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Bruch, Cowan, Pfautz and Scharman, Code Enforcement Officer Hamilton, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present and the following issues were addressed:

The Mayor presented a Certificate to Ethel and Walter Koehler for being nominated for the Spirit of Kensington Award.

The Mayor presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Council Member Bruch for serving eight years as Building Inspector and four years as Town Council Member.

Representatives from Kaiser Permanente discussed their proposed signage on the Sentient Building at 10410 North Kensington Parkway. In response to residents' concerns over illumination, location and excessive signage, the signage was changed to meet conditions listed below in Council Actions.

In response to concern over vehicular egress on Wheatley Street from the Sentient Building, the property manager will install *No Exit* signs and inform tenants in the building that Wheatley Street access is for ingress only. Also, a *Right Turn Only* sign will be installed at the east exit on N. Kensington Parkway.

The Mayor and Council reviewed the plans from SHA for the Armory Avenue traffic calming reconfiguration and concurred to have SHA move forward on this.

The project list was reviewed and updated. Ernest Memorial, Plyers Mill sidewalk, and brick sidewalks that cross driveways were completed and removed from the project list.

Council Member Bruch discussed guidelines for driveway aprons and driveway sidewalks in both the historic and non-historic district.

The code enforcement action list was reviewed.

Monthly correspondence was reviewed.

Council Member Pfautz reported that the Charter Review Committee met regarding a proposed charter amendment that would allow legal aliens to vote in Town elections.

A sub category for the historic district will be added to the web site under Town information.

The Mayor and Council supported a suggestion to provide more information on Town committees and volunteer opportunities for Town residents.

The Mayor will meet with SHA regarding the Metropolitan and Plyers Mill yield sign in response to concerns from residents.

The Council withheld opinion on a retroactive HAWP for scope modifications to an approved HAWP at 10314 Fawcett Street pending comment by LAP.

The minutes from the May 28 Town Meeting were reviewed.

Council Actions

Council Member Bruch moved to approve signage as modified at the June 4th work session for Kasier Permanente. The applicant will revise and resubmit the drawings for the Town's final approval and the Town will send those to the County's Sign Review Board with the following conditions: 1) the free standing entrance sign on North Kensington Parkway will be one sided, non-illuminated with Scotch-Light lettering and the maximum height will be seven feet 2) the east elevation sign will be lowered to the first floor elevation, non-illuminated and a smaller scale 3) the south elevation sign will be internally illuminated, have blue lettering and will be turned off no later than 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and not be illuminated on the weekends. It will be installed at the requested height of 26 feet (subject to the Montgomery County Sign Review Board). Council Member Cowan seconded it and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Bruch moved to adopt driveway apron and driveway sidewalk guidelines dated May 2002. Council Member Scharman seconded it and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Bruch moved to support the HAWP for demolition of a shed from 10531 St. Paul Street. It was seconded by Council Member Cowan and passed unanimously with the Mayor concurring.

Council Member Cowan moved to reallocate \$30,000 from the public works salary in the 2001/2002 budget to storm drain maintenance/reconstruction. It was seconded by Council Member Pfautz and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

FOUNDERS' DAY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COMMITTEE

Caya Cagri
Judy and Batiste DeLuca
Louise Hamilton
Julie O'Malley
Lynn Raufaste
Barbara Scharman
Wat Stuart

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

Hawkins
All Books Considered
Da Vinci's Florist
Kensington Shoe Repair/Dry Cleaners
Sunflowers Consignment Boutique
American Self Storage
Café Monet
Gasoline and Automobile Services
Kensington Caboose
The Bakers Union
Feng's Antiques and Appraisals
Kensington Television
Kensington Barber Shop
Kim's Cleaners
Emergency Locksmith
The Growing Years
Johnson's Flowers
Kensington Mart
Raffie Jewelers

COOKIES FOR THE PICNIC

Nancy Ackland, Janet Barnes, Bonny Cochran, Eleanor Condliffe, Anne Elsbree, Edna Godberson, Kyle Richards, A. Tassallo, Tara van Emmerik, Lois Weisman, Mary Jane Zusy